GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2140
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
SWINDLING OF FUNDS UNDER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complainants regarding swindling of funds meant for Rural Development Schemes in various States, particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any enquiry against such complainants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing through State Governments/UT Administrations, a number of schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, area development and creation of rural infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas. The major schemes are National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), India Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The Ministry received number of complaints from individuals, NGOs, people representatives, including Member of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies regarding irregularities in implementation of programmes, wrong selection of beneficiaries, poor quality assets provided or created, misutilisation of funds, non compliance of programme guidelines and diversion of funds etc. under rural development programmes.

Complaints are immediately brought to the notice of concerned State Government for investigation and appropriate remedial action. The complaints are also investigated by the Officers of the Ministry and by the independent National Level Monitors, who are empanelled by the Ministry. Appropriate action is being taken by the State Governments after due examinations of the complaints and investigation on case to case basis. The Ministry even stops release of funds to implementing agencies and the State Governments if they do not take appropriate action on these complaints sent by this Ministry and punished guilty officials.